



Wildlife Bureau
PO Box 200701
Helena MT 59020-0701
September 29, 2010

Dear Interested Person:

If you are a farmer, rancher, or other interested party who is adversely impacted by wildlife being unnaturally concentrated on private land, there are currently only three options for recourse. You can go to court, go before the FWP Commission, or you can try to get new laws passed.

The Private Land/Public Wildlife has developed a proposal for a different way to seek solutions to this often complex and difficult issue, and is currently seeking public comment through November 15 on a draft recommendation entitled "Collaborative Solutions for Problematic Wildlife Concentrations."

This draft recommendation defines the issue, noting that problematic wildlife concentrations (PWC) pose significant risks to landowners and neighbors, the health of domestic and wildlife herds, Montana's hunting heritage, and legally-mandated game management objectives.

The proposal outlines a three-phase process of progressive actions delivered through a new FWP program, ranging from one-on-one facilitation of affected parties through establishment of a local PWC solutions committee involving a broader range of interested parties up to a final stage involving a statewide PWC committee comprised of landowners, hunters, outfitters, and a member each from the FWP Commission and Board of Livestock.

The recommendation notes that FWP does not currently have authority to force public hunting access on private land, and nothing in this proposal seeks to create new FWP authority or to force access on private land.

The draft recommendation can be found at <http://fwp.mt.gov/hunting/>

The Private Land/Public Wildlife Council is a group of hunters, anglers, landowners, outfitters, a FWP Commission, and two legislators, appointed by Governor Schweitzer, charged with making recommendation to the Governor and Legislature regarding hunting and fishing access, public wildlife and private lands, and related issues. More information about the PL/PW Council, including a list of current members and meeting summaries, can be found at:

<http://fwp.mt.gov/hunting/hunterAccess/plpw/>

Draft Recommendation, comment process and comment deadline are listed below:

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION

Collaborative Solutions for Problematic Wildlife Concentrations

<http://fwp.mt.gov/hunting/>

COMMENT PROCESS AND DEADLINE

To submit comments electronically, this letter with the imbedded links can be found at the FWP website, www.fwp.mt.gov , on the Hunting Home page, <http://fwp.mt.gov/hunting/> under Opportunity for Public Comment.”

Written comments may be sent to:

FWP – PL/PW Council

ATTN: Alan Charles

POB 200701

Helena, MT 59620-0701.

The deadline for public comment is 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 15, 2010.